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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATES RELATIONS SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICE OF HOME ECONOMICS.

In connection with our home economics investigations, we have not as yet prepared any bulletin for publication dealing with the making of soap though we have studied the matter to some extent. Commercial concentrated lye is commonly used for domestic soap making. We would therefore suggest that you follow the directions which are usually found on cans containing such lye.

It has also been suggested that the recipe for making "Home-made Soap," which we are enclosing, is well suited to household conditions and perhaps may meet your needs. If you desire a toilet soap, the same recipe may give satisfaction if clean fats free from rancidity are combined with a high-grade lye. If scented soap is desired, a little oil of lavender or other perfume may be added after the mixture has cooled somewhat.

We are also enclosing two recipes taken from "Institution Recipes," by Emma Smedley which may prove useful. Other recipes may be obtained from text-books.

Very truly yours,

C. L. Langworthy
Chief.

Enclosure.



The American Medical Association is a non-profit corporation organized for the purpose of promoting the interests of the medical profession and the public. It is composed of medical practitioners of all branches of medicine and surgery who are duly qualified and who are members of the Association. The Association is organized into a hierarchy of local, state, and national societies. The local societies are the primary units of the Association, and they are organized on a county or city basis. The state societies are organized on a state basis, and the national society is organized on a national basis. The Association is organized into a hierarchy of local, state, and national societies. The local societies are the primary units of the Association, and they are organized on a county or city basis. The state societies are organized on a state basis, and the national society is organized on a national basis.

HOMEMADE SOAP.

5 lbs. clean fat.

12 ozs. commercial lye.

Dissolve the lye in $2\frac{1}{2}$ quarts of cold water, in a wooden or enamel-ware receptacle, and let stand until cold. Heat the fat until it is just melted. It should not be too hot. Pour the lye into the melted fat, stirring constantly, and continue the stirring until the mixture becomes thick (about the consistency of honey). Pour in 2-inch layers in paper-lined boxes. When cold, cut into cakes with a sharp knife.

* SOFT SOAP

$5\frac{1}{2}$ pounds clean grease.
1 can lye.

18 quarts hot water.
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ cup ammonia.

Dissolve the contents of a can of lye in 3 quarts of the hot water. Melt the grease and while still on the stove pour into it gradually the dissolved lye, stirring constantly. Add the remaining water and boil until the consistency of sirup. Allow to cool, add the ammonia, and pour into jars or crocks to keep until used. When the soap is cold it should resemble a soft jelly. If a thinner soap is desired more water may be added than called for in the recipe.

* HARD SOAP

5 pounds clean grease.
1 box concentrated lye.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ cup ammonia.
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ cup powdered borax.

$3\frac{1}{2}$ cups cold water.

Melt the grease and add the ammonia when it reaches a temperature of 120° Fahrenheit. Dissolve the lye in the cold water and when it cools to 80° Fahrenheit, stir in the borax. Pour the dissolved lye very slowly into the grease, and stir until lye and grease are thoroughly combined and the mixture drops from the spoon like honey. The stirring must be done slowly, but not too long; from one to five minutes; if stirred too long, the mixture will separate. Pour into a mould lined with paper and allow it to stand in a warm place about twenty-four hours. Empty from the mould, remove the paper and cut in pieces. Keep in a dry place.

** SOAP (HARD)

7 pounds melted, but not heated, fat.
1 pound soda lye, dissolved in 3 quarts of water.

The lye solution should be cooled before it is added to the melted (but not heated) fat. Stir the mixture until it resembles the consistency of money and is creamy. Pour into graniteware pans or pasteboard boxes. When almost hard, cut it into squares. Pack it with open spaces between and allow it to dry for at least a month before using.

* From "Institution Recipes" by Emma Smedley (Media, Pa.)

** From University of Wisconsin, Extension Service, Circular 139 (1921) p. 16.

